Vaccines of Hepatitis-B

*159. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vaccines of Hepatitis-B are freely available in India;

(b) if so, what are their names, names of manufacturers and respective prices;

(c) whether some such vaccines are being indigenously manufactured; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make the vaccines abundantly available and at a low price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Hepatitis-B Vaccine is not manufactured in India. However, presently the vaccine is being imported and marketed in the country by two companies as per details given below:

(i) Recombinant Hepatitis-B vaccine (Engerix-B) by Smithkiine Beecham India Ltd., Banglaore.

(ii) Plasma derived Hepatitis-B vaccine (Hepavax-B) by V.H. Bhagat & Co., Mumbai).

The retail price of 1 ml vial of Energix-B is approximately Rs. 485/- and of Hebavax-B is about Rs. 210 per ml.

(c) and (d) Indigenous Hepatitis-B vaccine is claimed to have been developed by M/s Shanta Biotechnics, Hyderabad and M/s Bharat Biotech International, Hyderabad which is at the investigation stage. A Public Sector Undertaking Bharat Immunological and Biologicals Corporation Ltd. has also initiated steps to produce Plasma derived Hepatitis-B vaccine under Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme.

Losses incurred by Air India by leasing aircrafts

*160. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the losses incurred by Air India on account of leasing of aircrafts;

(b) whether any inquiry/investigation has been ordered into the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the proposed follow-up action against those who have been responsible for the loss; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) Losses incurred by Air India on operations (passenger) undertaken with aircraft taken on wet-lease are:-

(Rs. in crore)

1995-96 (Provisional)	1996-97 (Estimated) (Upto September '96)
96.54	88.75

These losses were incurred on account of the strategy of growth and expansion of Air India's operations and disruptions due to industrial unrest.

(b) to (d) Allegations of kickbacks in the wet-leasing agreements is under verification of Central Bureau of Investigation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Operation of IA's aircrafts

1023. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) number of aircrafts actually in operation which are owned by Indian Airlines;